

## Northern Region Quality Improvement Committee

January 28, 2009

### Minutes

Present:	Carol Baumann	Pam Nacario	Daryl Melton
	Linda Melton	Teresa Fowers	Sarah Pomeroy
	Rhett Fronk	Brenda Durtschi	Dan Webster
	Mary Francisco	Joyce Booth	Jean Marie Morris
	Sally Jones	Pam Clark	Craig Monson
	Nancy Xenede-Card	Landon Halverson	Pam Hugie
	Stacey Snyder	Eileen Nicholas	
Absent:	Pat Milar	Patty Conner-Rose	Estelle Dahlkemper
	Debee Gold	Jeff Tesch	Bob Burch
Guest:	Eric Jaehne		

---

#### New Committee Member

- Craig Monson is the newest member of the QI Committee. Craig retired from the Office of Services Review (OSR) and was very instrumental in the development of the Qualitative Case Review (QCR) process. Craig is also very familiar with the Federal lawsuit that the Division has just exited. He will be a great asset to the committee. Welcome Craig!

#### Carol

- Federal Lawsuit: We have successfully exited the Federal Lawsuit. Carol will check on the possibility of a small recognition to workers, from this committee, for exiting. There will still however be some oversight until 2010.

*This committee continues to review/discuss practice and policies in order to make recommendations for ways to obtain permanency for children.*

- Northern Region Vision Statement: *A nurturing, safe and permanent family for every child.* Will start adding this to emails, etc.
- Information from Julie Lund – Attorney:
  - The legal issues surrounding searches is confidentiality of information. In order to search the databases they would need to have personal information about the child. That information is protected by statute and cannot be shared with the public.
  - Any confidentiality agreement with the committee members would not be enforceable as they are volunteers.

- It is a slippery slope. Once the information has been shared it is impossible to control where it goes next and how it is used.
- ...Julie will attend this meeting next month. **Committee members please come with questions to ask Julie at the next meeting.**
- Search Resources: Handout. This list is used by a DCFS employee that is trying to locate missing parents. Pam Clark will keep this list to use, if possible, to go along with the other resources the subcommittee has put together.
- Kerri Burns will attend this meeting next month...she's the liaison between the state office and the region and has been assigned to oversee the QI committees to make sure are they setting goals and how will they reach those goals.
- Discussed the idea of the goal for this year to be to identifying the 'barriers' to permanency, looking at cases that have been in the system over 2 years and come up with solutions to those barriers.

#### Eric Jaehne (Caseworker)

- Gave examples of a couple cases he has had in terms of finding permanency for these children. Some areas that are in need of attention are...
  - Getting children that qualify onto the Adoption Exchange quicker. It's a lot of work but well worth it in the end. More help from supervisors in this area is needed.
  - Possibly creating a 'specialist' position, a full time worker charged with getting every eligible child identified, listed and adopted. Could be secondary worker on the case, would get child listed, follow up on inquiries and do all placement paperwork.
  - More rigorous follow up for children placed in high cost placement s to ensure the child is making solid progress on identified treatment goals and is advancing toward step-down.
- Carol works closely with upper management in licensing when various barriers arise in terms of placing children. The region is putting the permanency committee back in place. And possibly putting into place another permanency specialist.
- Discussion:
  - Suggestion that a subcommittee be created to look at cases that have been in care more than 24 months and find out why, talk to worker, the provider, etc. What are the barriers for permanency?
  - More work needs to take place with youth that don't think they want to be adopted, help them understand and see the bigger picture.
  - Possibly talk to kids that have aged out to get their perspective.
  - Possibly more training in terms of adoption when foster parents are being trained...more education in all areas, all levels, courts, foster parents, etc.
  - Feedback from foster parents that have left the system have indicated that it would have been helpful to have the RFCs read the license renewals, help stop licenses from expiring.
  - The Foster Care Foundation sends out exit surveys to foster families after they have left the system. If there are those that exited due to negative

issues, those are given to Carol on a quarterly basis so they can be reviewed.

#### Committee Membership

- There have been four members withdraw from this committee. If you know of anyone who may be interested in being on this committee, please invite them to join our group.

#### Quarterly Data

- Handout. Please take these home and look them over so we can discuss the info at the next meeting. Please bring your copies back. Pay particular attention to the permanency areas. If something doesn't make sense, email Carol and she'll see if she can provide more information.

**Next meeting is February 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 in the Ogden office.**